

and discussed generally. Mr. Noyes stating that the committee's argument to that time had been based solely on the question of the proportion of the District's burden and not upon the internal methods of meeting such a burden.

Senator Chilton said he assumed the government would not put unreasonable tax-burdens on the people, and there seems to be no standard of taxation. He suggested that it is necessary to find out how taxes are raised and what their percentages and proportions are in other cities.

He is anxious to get into the record, continued Mr. Noyes, "for consideration by Congress and by this committee everything we have to show that our tax-burden, however compared, demonstrates we are bearing an equitable city tax."

He continued further: "The bulk of our tax is from real estate; some other cities raise less from realty and have other means of raising taxes, but we start with the assumption that Washington raises the bulk of its tax from realty."

Query by Senator Saulsbury. "Do you undertake to suggest any rule for comparison other than per capita contribution?" asked Senator Saulsbury.

"No."

"It doesn't make any difference what people pay on, realty or personally, as long as the tax-rate is the same?"

"No, I should say not," said Mr. Noyes, who then referred the committee to the tables printed in the brief of the joint citizens' committee.

He also, referring to tables of his own, that Washington has been steadily going up in per capita tax burden in comparison with other cities since 1907, and that Washington in that time had passed several other cities. He mentioned municipalities where the tax burden per capita has fluctuated.

Senator Works said: "The tax in these cities and Washington. There is a difference between the needs of these cities and Washington. There is great improvement and extension and beautification here, and that may have caused the tax rate to be higher than in other cities, as compared with other cities, Pittsburgh, for instance, may not need any further extensions and beautifications and may not need any greater tax."

I agree with you, senator," replied Mr. Noyes, "that the national government makes Washington a more expensive city, and therefore the whole burden should not fall upon us. We must meet the same city expenses as are borne by other cities; we are doing all that can be expected."

Personal Property Tax. Senator Chilton asked about the claim that personal property escapes taxation to a great degree here; also, whether that is the case. He made an effort to disturb the present half-and-half relations. In reply Mr. Noyes said he believed primary attention should be given to the tax burden.

No city raises all it can raise on all kinds of property. In the District of Columbia we raise a total averaging high by a heavy realty tax and light personal property tax. The total burden to be right, then, if there should be imposed a higher personal tax there should be a higher realty tax. The question should be given to just and reasonable tax burden; all property should be considered as a whole."

Senator Works suggested that Congress should not allow one tax to remain low while another is higher. "Our theory is that Congress should impose a reasonable tax burden on Washington," continued Mr. Noyes, "and that any system for raising the proper total would be justifiable to itself. Congress would not impose a tax to which people are unaccustomed."

"Take the city of Wilmington," interjected Senator Saulsbury, "its assessment is high on real estate and practically all revenue is raised from realty. The tax on personal property is low. Further discussion back and forth on the subject of tax systems brought Representative Cooper to state to Mr. Noyes:

"You think the question is not one of system or method, but of proportion. You think the question is higher or lower under-taxation. You say the half the District pays imposes a burden equivalent to the burden borne by other cities and to change the law would be to impose an unfair tax on Washington."

"That is an admirable summary of my contention," replied Mr. Noyes.

Discussion of Method. Later the discussion of method arose again, and Senator Works said:

"You might well say that the proportion which the District pays should be less, and the committee might find it proper to inquire into the method of raising the proportion, if a large amount of property here is to be exempt."

"We should like to know if the committee is going into that matter," said Mr. Noyes, "whether the methods of taxation are to be considered and discussed by us."

If the burden is to remain the same, the system ought not to be changed. Mr. Noyes said he believed the system should be found on the basis of the great question of the proportion of the tax-payers of the District should bear.

Representative Gard said there had been charges of evasion of taxes, and Senator Chilton said:

"The committee must report its reasons for the method of raising the tax, and in that case isn't it natural to suppose that Congress would like to know about the methods of raising the tax? I have heard the charge that this is the case, and that charge must be met. Again, and the committee should like to know about this, if it is to make a report."

"The exemption of personal property is a matter of the highest importance, who continued, giving his opinion that the committee should be allowed to state its position on the subject. He said the committee is to deliver into that phase of the question."

Senator Saulsbury declared that his state, Delaware, has no tax on intangible personal property, and yet the state is not the most prosperous for outside millionaire tax dodgers.

Critics Are Answered. "Mr. Noyes," said Representative Rainey, "stories have been circulated through the country that property in Washington is not paying its just taxes, that there are many tax dodgers here. Of course, such reports make good newspaper stories and they have been circulated. But the manner in which you and Mr. Macfarland have answered all these criticisms and stories has astounded me. You have completely met these criticisms, according to your construction of the facts. You have presented them in only adds to my justification as to why these criticisms should have been made in Congress."

Mr. Rainey then adopted a new line of questioning, designed to show what part of the upkeep of the city is borne by the taxes attached to government buildings, parks and monuments in the District. He said that the only way to get the truth was to get the figures read from a speech made by Mr. Underwood in a session, in which Mr. Underwood stated that it was not fair to ask the people of the District to pay all the burden of maintaining the public buildings, parks and streets of the National Capital.

Given Fire Protection. "Just what part of such expenses do the citizens of the District pay?" asked Mr. Rainey.

Mr. Noyes suggested that Mr. Underwood had himself specified in his speech that these buildings were given fire protection.

"But all these buildings are fire-proof," said Mr. Rainey.

"There is no such thing as a fire-proof building," was Mr. Noyes' reply.

"But there have been no fire losses and no fire protection expenses in the last fifty years that I know of," said Mr. Rainey.

Mr. Noyes said that the fire department was larger here, nevertheless, because of the public buildings, which

must be protected along with all those of private citizens.

Police Protection Also. District Commissioner Brownlow bore out his statement that the fire department is larger in Washington than in other cities when the size of the population is taken into consideration.

Commissioner Brownlow also told the committee that the public buildings are given police protection, except the Capitol, which has its own police force, by the District government. He spoke particularly of the White House, which is policed by the District police, and all the big parks.

Mr. Macfarland pointed out to the committee that the federal government shares in all the municipal services given by the District government, including lighting, policing, fire protection, street cleaning, etc.

Mr. Rainey asked if the District didn't call on the soldiers at Fort Myer to help out in policing the city at times.

"There was only one such occasion," said Mr. Macfarland, "and that was when the suffrage battle was going on. I hope we won't have another such experience here, and I don't think we will."

Should Pay Share in Claim. Mr. Rainey argued that if New Orleans and Newark, cities similar in size to Washington, paid just as much for their fire departments and police departments as we do, then we should pay for the citizens of the District who do not pay the entire amount for the fire and police departments here without calling on the government. Mr. Macfarland pointed out that the government was here and got the benefit of these municipal services and should pay for them.

If the government should get out of Washington you could reduce your fire department and police department to one-third of the present size. "Exactly," replied Mr. Macfarland.

Mr. Rainey said that the citizens should be asked to contribute to the half-and-half plan in order to maintain and develop the capital.

District Pays Upkeep. "Are there any other elements of beautification for the capital outside of public buildings, monuments, memorials, art galleries, botanical gardens, parks, amusement grounds and what are called the parks?"

Mr. Noyes replied that the District paid for the streets and upkeep, for the parks here and amusement grounds.

Representative Rainey said the opinion prevailed to some extent throughout the country that the people of Washington are very much favored because of the support given to the District of Columbia by the federal government. He said that although he did not share this view, residents of the National Capital are sometimes called pensioners and are not paid for their municipal services in Washington than in other places.

To this Mr. Macfarland replied that the federal government is not paying for the upkeep of the capital. Mr. Worthington, who was sitting near, interjected the statement that the federal government in Washington is done so cheaply that one contractor refused to take the work.

Mr. Noyes reiterated some of his arguments that the federal government to the effect that the District of Columbia should be abolished, and said that the federal government should bear all of the cost of the parks system. On the other hand, he said, the federal government should bear the cost of the parks system.

Just before the morning session adjourned at 1 p.m. Representative Rainey said it was his opinion that the United States should contribute to the support of the National Capital, but that it was a question of how much. He said he did not know whether the United States should contribute more or less.

Defends Present Tax Levies. Henry B. F. Macfarland, chairman of the joint citizens' committee, was before the committee all yesterday afternoon, completing his general statement of defense of the half-and-half plan. Much of his statement was to show that the taxes levied in the National Capital were as heavy as those levied in other cities of a similar size. He presented tables from census reports showing that the taxes here averaged well up with those in other cities.

Representative Cooper of Wisconsin expressed surprise that with such government figures at hand members of the House in the last Congress had concluded that the people of Washington were grossly under-assessed.

I cannot see any reason why the official figures of the United States government were not examined and produced, and why they should not be produced upon the basis of the census. Mr. Macfarland. He said the census bureau adopted the method of comparing the per capita taxes of cities as the fairest method of comparison. He added that it seemed remarkable to the citizens' committee that the House should accept the statement of under-assessment in the District when the official figures proving otherwise were at the disposal of the House.

Denies Truth of Story. While Mr. Macfarland was referring to the estimates prepared by the District Commissioners, Senator Saulsbury asked if those were the estimates which, as he had read in one of the local newspapers, the District Commissioners had appealed to the White House to save from destruction by Congress.

Commissioner Brownlow, who was in the committee room at the time, immediately rose and said there was not one word of truth in that story.

Compares Tax Burdens Here and in Other Cities; Cites Aid for Capitals. The branches of the argument for Washington which were assigned to Mr. Noyes for presentation were, first, the comparison of Washington's tax burden with that of other American cities, and second, the comparison of what the nations of the world had done for their capitals with what the United States had done for Washington.

Mr. Noyes said that the primary function of the joint committee was to measure in the scales of equity the obligations of the nation and that of the local community toward the capital, and that the first of these obligations was to the nation.

He declared that the assaults upon the existing financial arrangement were based upon the belief that through under-assessment the Washington government was not getting its share of the upkeep of the city.

Mr. Noyes attacked this belief as erroneous and untrue. He stated that the charge that Washington received more than its share of the upkeep of the city was based upon the standards applied in other cities. He said that in 1912, though the city was overthrown and reduced to an absurdity by inspection of the assessed value, it was found that the city was paying more than its share of the upkeep of the city.

He pointed out that the proposition was to assess and tax a decreasing fraction of the capital's area, deprived of the best factors of real estate assessment at a value which was less than twice as much as the whole of the city, which was assessed with 226,784,000,000, and that the whole of the city was assessed with 44,767,000,000, larger than that of the District; and that under this valuation the 44,767,000,000, which is nearly all small property owners, crippled and cramped in money making in the most conceivable fashion, would be required to pay in taxes to sustain the national city on a national scale more than the assessed taxpayers of New Orleans, Louisville and St. Paul in municipal taxes. But Washington is not content with that. It has taken the burden of the nation's capital, and has placed it upon the shoulders of the people of the District to pay all the burden of maintaining the public buildings, parks and streets of the National Capital.

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that comparatively it is not under-assessed at all; that on the contrary, most of the taxes are very much undervalued for assessment purposes as compared with Washington. This fact, indicated by the census bulletins and comments exposing the false pretense of full valuation in other cities; by local admissions and independent investigation, and by the reports of state tax commissions; by the figures on the value basis of the census of twenty American cities, compared with Washington, secured by the citizens' subcommittee on taxation; and finally by careful comparison of the census figures of valuation.

Assessments in Other Cities. Further, he said:

"Is it not clear that the assessors of other cities have applied a widely differing standard of measurement from that utilized by the Washington assessors, and that these assessors have in comparison with the Washington figures greatly undervalued the realty of their cities when they report that all of Detroit is worth sixty-one millions less than the tax fraction of Washington, that all of Buffalo is worth seventy millions less, all of Milwaukee is worth eighty millions less, all of Baltimore is worth ninety millions less, all of Cincinnati is worth one hundred millions less, all of Minneapolis is worth one hundred and one million less, all of Newark is worth one million less, and that all of New Orleans is worth far less than one-half of the value of the taxed fraction of Washington?"

For the measurement of comparative tax-burdens Mr. Noyes concluded that the only approximately accurate standard is the per capita of taxes actually paid in the various cities. On this point he said:

"The method of measuring the comparative tax-burdens of cities which accepts as accurate the census-reported relations of assessed to true value, and on this assumption declares that the Washington tax-burden is much lighter than that of the residents of the average American city, is based on a false premise and leads to a false conclusion. It is discredited as unreliable by the census authorities and by comparative assessments with true values, as ascertained from sale prices in many cities, and is reduced to a logical absurdity when the attempt is made to apply it practically."

Measuring Tax Burdens. "In calculating the actual tax-burden the assessment alone is of no value, the tax rate alone is of no value, and the application to the tax-rate of the unreliable reported relations of assessed to true value to measure comparative tax-burdens gives results that are confessedly false."

"The only reliable standards of measuring the tax-burdens of the various cities are the tax-rates, the dollars assessed by taxation, and the per capita tax-levy which distributes the total tax-burden among the persons who are assessed and taxed with it."

"The demonstration of the figures is not that Washington's assessment is not accurate, but that the assessment of most other American cities are less accurate, even in cases where the assessment is based on the same principles and the same methods as those that the reports from the cities of the relation of assessed to true value are so inaccurate and tainted with error that fantastically misleading results follow any attempt to apply these false reports to modify the actual tax-burdens as a measure of comparative tax-burdens."

These tables of figures relied on in the House debate to demonstrate the comparative lightness of the Washington tax-burden are rendered less and less by the use of and reliance upon this discredited and misleading factor in their calculations."

Tax Burden Now Heavy. Applying the standard of per capita tax levy and tax receipts measurement to the various groups of American cities, the fourteen different viewpoints of comparison, the various methods of comparing these combining county and state taxes in the calculation, Mr. Noyes explained and elaborated the tables and comments of the brief, strengthening in the process the case for the fact that Washington's equitable tax-burden should be for the reasons stated among the low, and that the tax-burden here is, in fact, however measured, distinctly above the average; that the few among comparable cities which exceed it in tax-burdens exceed it only slightly, and that many cities which ought to bear, and are able to bear, a far heavier burden fall below it, even when the votes of comparison are employed which in effect imply the unfair taxation of the Washington tax-burden when he does not get it.

He concluded, said Mr. Noyes, that the Washington tax-burden is not shirked, but has fully met, and is fully meeting, his obligation to the capital as a municipal taxpayer.

In handling the other branch of the committee assigned to him involving a comparison of the tax-burdens of national capitals in all parts of the world, Mr. Noyes pointed out that in essence it was a measurement of the nation's capital obligation of the local community. On the foundation of the reports of Mr. Barrett and Dr. Bowerman, discrediting what other nations do for their capitals, Mr. Noyes had prepared and submitted a comprehensive and interesting table in which were condensed the facts in relation to the various capitals classified under the following heads in the shape of queries:

"1. Does the capital pay national taxes like other cities, and does the nation spend liberally national money on national objects at the capital?"

"2. Does the nation encourage increase of local taxable resources?"

"3. Does the nation contribute directly toward municipal expenses, either discriminating in favor of the capital in this respect or contributing alike toward the cities of the nation?"

"4. Are the people of the capital represented in the national government?"

"5. Is there any special equitable obligation upon the nation to maintain and develop the capital based upon the circumstances and condition of the city's creation and early history, or upon peculiar control exercised by nation over capital?"

For convenience of comparison the capitals of the world in respect to which the committee has reports are classified in the following groups:

"1. Those of republics with capitals in federal districts in varying degrees under national control. Washington, Buenos Aires, Rio Janeiro and Mexico."

"2. Those of republics without distinct federal districts. Paris and Bern."

"3. Those of the practically self-governing colonies of Great Britain. Ottawa, Cape Town, Pretoria, Canberra."

"4. Those of monarchies: London, Brussels, Copenhagen, Athens, Rome, Tokyo and Christiania."

"5. Of democratic centralisms. Berlin, Vienna and Budapest."

Washington's answer to question 6, Mr. Noyes said, is: "Yes. There is no tax on the capital, and a wide fold special equitable obligation on the part of the nation." (1) That arising from the circumstances of the creation, planning and upbuilding of the infant capital and the trusts coupled with gifts of land to the nation.

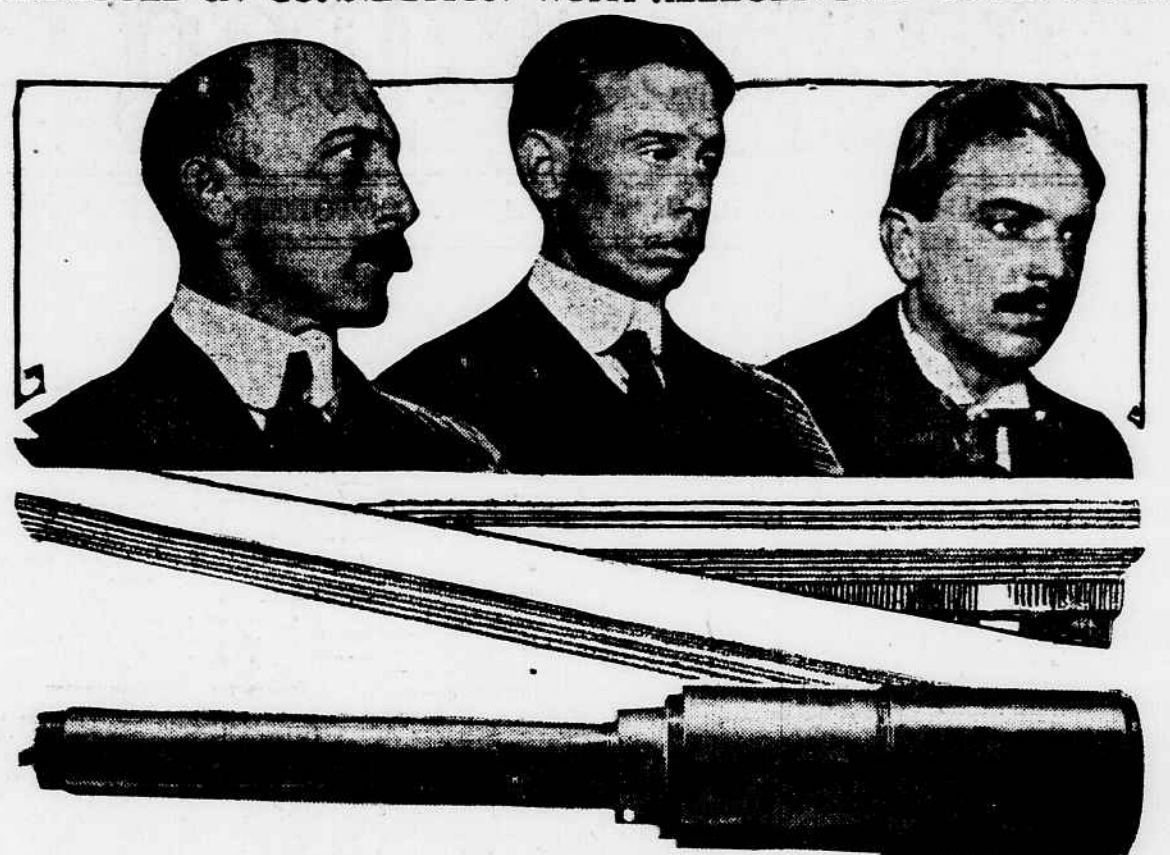
"(2) The obligation of the nation to the capital for the capital's development; (3) the obligation that is coupled with the gifts of land to the nation; and (4) the obligation of the nation to the capital for the capital's development; (5) the obligation that is coupled with the gifts of land to the nation; and (6) the obligation of the nation to the capital for the capital's development."

Under all six queries Mr. Noyes analyzed and compared the facts in respect to the various capitals. A special comparison was made with Argentina's relations to Buenos Aires and with Brazil's relations to Rio de Janeiro, Argentina and Brazil having under provisions in federal districts similar to our own, and their examples being held, on that account, of special interest.

In final analysis of the table, Mr. Noyes separated the capitals of the world on the basis of lines of division into the following groups:

"(1) Those which are treated by the nation as a national city, and are on the same lines as the other cities of the nation, except that the municipal tax-

ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED SHIP BOMB PLOT.



UPPER, LEFT TO RIGHT—ROBERT FAY, WALTER L. SCHOLZ AND PAUL DAECHE AS THEY APPEARED IN COURT IN NEW YORK.

LOWER—BOMB ALLEGED TO BE INTENDED FOR ATTACHING TO STEAMSHIP PROPELLERS.

able resources are indirectly made strong by the nation, and except that the nation, because the national interests are greater at the capital than elsewhere, makes larger national expenditures for national purposes there than in any other city.

"Some of the cities classified under this head are London, Berlin, Vienna, Budapest, Brussels, Copenhagen, Athens, Tokyo, Christiania, Bern, Ottawa, Cape Town, Pretoria."

"(2) Those which are financially supported by the nation, and are for national purposes and by specific contributions toward municipal maintenance. In respect to them on the other hand the national government exercises special control politically, participating in but not exclusively exercising municipal government, and allowing the capital full representation in the national government."

"These capitals are Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Mexico and Paris."

"(3) That capital which has received since 1878 the reasonable liberal national expenditures of the first class and (since the same date) an adequate specific municipal contribution of the second class, but which has been crippled by the nation in its municipal taxable resources, and has been forced to participate in its municipal government and all representation in the national government. This capital is Washington."

Other Peoples Have Voice. "While many nations surpass the United States in lavish expenditure of national money in the judicious development of the capital, some nations contribute substantially toward the municipal maintenance of their capitals, approximating in this respect the wise liberality of the United States under the act of 1878, there is no other nation of the world which denies its capital community all voice in respect to its tax and municipal affairs in general, and also bars it from representation in the national as well as in the local government."

"These reports and this table also show that no nation in the world, except the United States, has indicated material development and prosperity of the capital along commercial, manufacturing and industrial lines, and bars the local community from employment in many of the national local industries, thus reducing to a minimum the city's taxable resources and depriving it of self-support offered to the city's growing youth."

"In most other capitals the nation has legislated and acted discriminatively in favor of the capital, fostering its commerce and its manufactures, increasing its resources of support and enlarging equitably its taxable resources, and rendering it attractive to visitors. Even when the nation does not thus favor the capital over other cities, but treats all the cities alike, it does not encourage the capital's material development and prosperity and the resulting accumulation of taxable resources."

Prosperity Discouraged. "These comparisons show that while no nation in the world is under such strong and peculiarly binding equitable obligations to develop its capital as the United States, and that no other nation in the world so discourages the development and material prosperity of its capital. In Washington's case there is a maximum of obligation and in the particular indicated a minimum of national response."

"But however it may have fallen short in other respects, the United States is a contributor to municipal maintenance in a definite and liberal amount the nation has, since 1878, under the wise and fair legislation of that year, passed other nations in this form of patriotic expenditure. The result has been to restore the nation's self-respect as a fulfiller of capital obligations; and to build up the capital of today, in which the nation's future lies, to a material development and prosperity and the resulting accumulation of taxable resources."

GREEK CABINET FORCED TO PLACATE VENIZELOS. Former Premier, in Parliamentary Debate, Threatened Overthrow of Ministry.

ATHENS, October 26, via London, 12:35 p.m.—Another cabinet crisis has been narrowly averted. During a debate in the chamber of deputies a difference of opinion developed between Eleutherios Venizelos, minister of finance, and Eleutherios Venizelos, former premier and leader of the majority party. The debate was on the subject of Turkish properties in Macedonia which were confiscated after the Balkan war. Heated remarks were exchanged, and there were constant interruptions from the government side.

M. Venizelos finally reminded the government that its control of the chamber depended entirely on the votes of the opposition. The chamber was thrown into confusion and the sitting was suspended.

The cabinet assembled hastily and as a result of its consultation M. Dragoumis made conciliatory explanations which brought about a settlement of the dispute.

BULGARS THREATEN GREECE. Resent Acquiescence in Landing of Allied Troops at Saloniki.

LONDON, October 26.—The Bulgarian newspapers are adopting a threatening attitude toward Greece, according to a dispatch from the Exchange Telegraph Company from Zurich.

The dispatch says the newspapers are very much irritated over Greece's acquiescence in the landing of allied troops at Saloniki, and that the government organ, Kamabana, declares that if Greece cannot expel the allies Bulgaria must perform the task herself.

Gen. Dimitrieff Under Surveillance. AMSTERDAM, October 26, via London.—Information has reached here from Sofia that the Bulgarian government is keeping a close watch on the movements of Gen. Radko Dimitrieff, the Bulgarian general, who has been fighting with the Russian army. Gen. Dimitrieff is now said to be in Rumania.

King George Visits His Army. LONDON, October 26.—King George is now in France, whether he has gone to visit the British army. He hopes also to see some of the allied troops.

BALKAN CAMPAIGN AN EXCITING RACE FOR TURK CAPITAL

(Continued from First Page.)

obtain free passage through Bulgaria, from Orsova, where fifty steamers and lighters laden with munitions have assembled."

Bulgars Hold Railway Line. SALONIKI, October 25, via Paris, October 26.—With Ukup in their possession, the Bulgarians now hold with strong forces the Nish-Saloniki railroad between Vranza and Tskapa, a distance of about fifty miles. They have thus cut direct communication between Nish and Saloniki, leaving transit over the Monastir-Pristina line.

"The situation in Serbia is grave, of course, but it is in no wise desperate," said the officer in charge of the Serbian army. "The Austrians and the Germans have advanced less than twelve miles on the Danube front, notwithstanding their numerical superiority."

The line now held by the Bulgarians may prove to be serious in respect to the situation and are not at all discouraged."

Saloniki tomorrow (Tuesday) for Dorian (forty miles northwest of Saloniki). The object of this move, it is stated, is to prepare an advance on Strumitsa, in conjunction with the French movement by way of the Stura valley, when the allied offensive against Bulgaria is undertaken.

Bombardment Is Protested. AMSTERDAM, October 25, via London, October 26.—German newspapers print the text of a note sent by Premier Radolavoff of Bulgaria to Bulgarian ministers abroad protesting against the bombardment of what he styles the "open towns" of Saloniki and Porto Lango where he declares "considerable damage" was inflicted.

Delegations, says the premier, was exposed October 21 to a bombardment by eight large warships of the allies, while Forts Lagaria, Box-Ed and other forts were shelled. "It is not necessary to say," he adds, "that the fire of the allied fleet was not answered, since open places possess no means of resistance."

American Consul Quits Nish. The American consulate at Nish, Serbia, has been moved to Tchak, according to a dispatch received today from American Minister Popkita at Bucharest, Rumania. The American consulate moved with the Serbian government and all other foreign consuls and missions.

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CONSPIRACY CHARGE PREFERRED BY U. S.

(Continued from First Page.)

this part. It took us ten minutes to do it. All the explosives we had would not explode in their present condition. The three bags of T. N. T. (trinitrotoluene) had to be melted and dried and further prepared before it would go off."

Say Fay Got \$4,000 From Germany. "It was all Fay's idea. He was allowed to come by the German government. I believe he got \$4,000 from that government. It cost between \$65 and \$70 to make one of these mines. We worked three months on the project, and we were almost ready to begin when we were arrested."

Entries in two memorandum books found in the room occupied by Fay and Scholz in Weehawken referred to the German steamship Magdeburg and were regarded by the police as significant.

The Magdeburg, a German dynamite ship, was sent to Germany, was prevented at the outbreak of the war from sailing and remained at anchor at the Stura valley when the allied offensive against Bulgaria is undertaken.

Has Other Information. Other information which, he said, it would be against public policy to reveal at this time, Chief Flynn declared, would be disclosed later. In his complaint to Commissioner Houghton, Chief Flynn stated that Paul Siebs, formerly of the German army, had been a government witness. It was set forth that he had received money from Fay and Breitling for chlorate of potash on August 12, 1915, for the purpose of making dynamite. The chlorate of potash said to be part of the material found by detectives.

The men are charged with conspiring to violate a section of the United States criminal code, which says: "Whoever conspires to use or in any other waters within the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States by means of a vessel or vessels belonging to another with an intent to plunder, to commit the same or to despoil any owner thereof of any money, goods or merchandise laden on board thereof shall be fined."

State Department Inactive. Absolutely no part is being taken by the State Department in the investigations of the operations of Robert Fay, held in New York in connection with a bomb plot. It was said at the department today that there is little possibility of diplomatic incidents growing out of the affair. The Department of Justice is handling the matter and the Department of State has not even been informed officially of the arrest of Lieut. Fay.

As regards Capt. K. Boy-Ed and Capt. von Pappen of the German embassy, it was said that if Fay told the truth about his so-called confession no implication could attach to them. Fay is quoted as having said that Capt. Boy-Ed and Capt. Pappen, when approached by him, refused to have anything to do with his schemes and advised against them.

Officials of the Department of Justice expressed doubt today whether the German government could make any use against the men implicated in the plot to blow up munition ships sailing from the United States. Detailed information as to what evidence had been collected by the New York police or the secret service was still lacking today, and the department will not reach a decision in the matter until all information has been examined.

The bureau of investigation of the Department of Justice has been interested in the case only indirectly, but Chief E. B. Bleckel said today that he does not expect to take any active part in the present investigation.

JOHN T. WEBSTER DIES. Was a Resident of Washington for Seventy-Five Years